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Daily Report

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CONTENTS

24 October 1989

EAST AFRICA

Djibouti

President Hassan Returns From Saudi Arabia [Djibouti Radio]	1
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Ethiopia

Military Plane Crash Near Addis Ababa Reported [Beijing XINHUA]	1
Further Report on Crash [Beijing XINHUA]	1
Addis Ababa Radio Reports	1
Situation Between Government, Rebels Reported	1
Rebels Issue Statement [Voice of Tigray Revolution]	1
Rebels Raid South Welo [Addis Ababa International]	3
Government 'Massacres' Noted [Voice of Ethiopian Broad Masses]	3
Rebels Outline Peace Plan [Voice of Ethiopian Broad Masses]	4
Rally Pledges Response Against TPLF [Addis Ababa Radio]	5
Foreign Minister on North Situation [BBC]	5
Islamic Leader To Respond to Call [Addis Ababa Radio]	6
Mengistu Calls for 'Mobilization' [Addis Ababa Radio]	6
Rebels Capture 4 Welo Towns [Voice of Tigray Revolution]	7
Aide Comments on Talks With Eritrean Groups [London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 20 Oct]	8

Uganda

6-Member North Korean Delegation Visits [Kampala Radio]	8
---	---

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

De Klerk Warns Against 'International Interference' [SAPA]	9
Rejects 'Victories Before Talks' [SAPA]	9
Affirms Support for Namibian Vote [SAPA]	10
Calls on Nations To Observe Changes [SAPA]	10
Pik Botha Reacts to U.S. 'Coherent Policy' Plan [SAPA]	10
Released ANC Leaders Meet, Issue Statement [SAPA]	11
Further on Meeting [SAPA]	11
ANC 'Agent' Dobson Discusses Namibian Operation [BBC]	12
Johannesburg Hospital Discharges PAC's Mothopeng [SAPA]	12
Hospital Discharges Portuguese President's Son [SAPA]	12

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Angola

Commentary Criticizes U.S. 'Fury' on Peace Plans [ANGOP]	14
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Djibouti

President Hassan Returns From Saudi Arabia

AB1910133589 Djibouti Domestic Service in Somali
1700 GMT 18 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The president of the Republic of Djibouti, Al-Haji Hassan Gouled Aptidon, returned to the country this afternoon at the end of his 2-day private visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted] During his visit to Saudi Arabia the president of the Republic visited holy places in the country. He also had a 2-hour meeting with the Saudi Arabian monarch during which time they discussed bilateral cooperation and relations between their countries, international affairs, particularly Arab issues.

Ethiopia

Military Plane Crash Near Addis Ababa Reported

OW2310192989 Beijing XINHUA in English 1902
GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, October 23 (XINHUA)--An Ethiopian military plane crashed this afternoon some 50 kilometres south of Addis Ababa.

The plane broke into two sections after hitting a trailer tank travelling on the highway. Both the plane and the vehicle were destroyed, an eyewitness told XINHUA.

The crash took place just outside a military airbase in the town of Debre Zeit, the eyewitness said.

The highway was sealed off by policemen and all vehicles riding on the road were directed to a makeshift detour opened after the accident.

So far, there has been no official report about the crash and the casualties.

Further Report on Crash

OW2410010389 Beijing XINHUA in English
0031 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Text] Addis Ababa, October 23 (XINHUA)--No one died in the crash of an Ethiopian military transport plane earlier today in Debre Zeit, some 50 kilometers south of the capital Addis Ababa.

The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY said that the Antonov-12 fell on a fuel tanker on the highway linking Addis Ababa with the Red Sea port of Assad immediately after it took off on a trial flight.

The seven-member crew survived the crash with mild injuries while the driver of the tanker escaped unscathed. But both the plane and the tanker were completely consumed by the ensuing massive flames.

The report quoted Brigadier General Jatema Ejigu, head of the Political Department of the Ethiopian Air Force, as saying that the cause of the accident is now under investigation.

Addis Ababa Radio Reports

AB2410075589 Addis Ababa Domestic Service
in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] An Antonov transport aircraft belonging to the Ethiopian Air Force crashed and burned this morning after encountering problems on a training flight soon after take-off from Debre Zeit Airport. The Antonov-12 aircraft burned because it landed on a tanker, which was transporting fuel from Aseb to Addis Ababa. Seven people, including the pilot, sustained minor injuries. The tanker and its trailer were completely burned, but the driver escaped unhurt. According to Comrade Brigadier General Jatema Ejigu, head of the Political Department of the Ethiopian Air Force, the cause of the problem on the aircraft is being investigated. The pilot and crew of the aircraft, who sustained minor injuries, have been treated at the Air Force hospital.

Situation Between Government, Rebels Reported

Rebels Issue Statement

EA2110212289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray
Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 0400 GMT 21 Oct 89

["Organizational statement" issued by the Tigray People's Liberation Front]

[Excerpts] Is to be recalled that Mengistu Haile Mariam recently delivered a speech about the situation in northern Ethiopia. His speech differed in presentation from the usual Mengistu Haile Mariam speeches. Mengistu, who used to shout and scare people, humbled himself and adopted a pleading tone. This is no surprise since the Dergue has one foot in the grave and the Ethiopian people have completely rejected him. Therefore, it did not have that vigorous and threatening tone.

The leadership provided by the Dergue was the reason for the formation of various opposition organizations. It is true that the Tigray People's Liberation Front [TPLF] had relations with the Ethiopian students movement when it was formed. But Mengistu Haile Mariam's false allegations that the TPLF initiated the Ethiopian students movement are not accepted by us. It is not that the TPLF considers the initiation and leadership of the Ethiopian students movement as something to be ashamed of. This is not the reason why it rejects this false allegation and lie. The TPLF rejects this false allegation because it is a complete lie. The great honor of having formed and led the Ethiopian students movement does not only belong to the TPLF but also to the many Ethiopian combatants who have sacrificed their lives for the movement or are still keeping it alive.

By accepting the democratic lines mapped out by Walelign Mekonen and others, who sacrificed themselves for

the famous Ethiopian students movement, the TPLF fought to abolish oppression and discrimination and to uphold the rights of nationalities to self-determination.

The TPLF fought for lasting and reliable democratic unity based on the self-determination of peoples. Today, more than ever before, it stands by this objective. The TPLF recognized the danger that discrimination and denigration by the Workers Party of Ethiopia (WPE) would create conflicts among the Ethiopian people. This is unacceptable both from someone who claims to be a head of state and also from his followers. We reject the insults and open abuse against the Tigray people who are confident and proud of their place amongst the Ethiopian people. The TPLF says this does not auger well for the lasting and reliable unity of the Ethiopian people.

By following the objectives of the Ethiopian students movement, the TPLF fought for the following principles: that the war in Eritrea does not benefit anyone and that to try and solve it by force would only result in death and agony. Therefore, it should be resolved peacefully and in a democratic way. The right of the Eritrean people to self-determination, like that of any other peoples should be respected. We will continue to stand firm on this democratic principle. [passage omitted]

Only when peace and democracy prevail and the people are allowed freedom of speech, writing, organization and choice of leaders will oppressed Ethiopians benefit. This way it will be the Mengistu and Legese Asfaws who will suffer. Undeniably, if the people are granted freedom of choice, they will sweep away those anti-people groups. [passage omitted]

The TPLF says that the entire Ethiopian people should destroy the Dergue because it does not respect the democratic rights of the Ethiopian people. On its grave the new, democratic Ethiopia should arise. The TPLF is doing its utmost to unite the entire oppressed Ethiopian people in the struggle against the Dergue. [passage omitted]

There are two choices in Ethiopia. One is to create a rift among the people and to continue the bloodshed destruction and disintegration of Ethiopia. The other is to bring peace, democracy and unity to Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

Here it is necessary to point out some of the lies uttered by Mengistu. Mengistu says: Everything we have done is with the consultation and support of the people. This is a very surprising statement. Was it in consultation and with the support of the Ethiopian people that he massacred young people for demonstrating, that he intimidated and claimed to break his enemies? Was it in consultation and with the support of the Ethiopian people that he sold our country to the Soviets and allowed the Soviets to do what they wanted in our country? Was it because the Ethiopian farmers told him to go ahead and rob them that he forced the farmers to sell their produce at a very low price and in quotas? As a result they could not benefit from their produce. Add to this overtaxation and unfair contributions.

Is it because the Ethiopian workers consulted the WPE's bureaucratic lords that the WPE bureaucrats are well-off and happy while we live on crumbs? Was that the reason why the WPE bureaucrats told the farmers not to raise economic demands but to suffer in silence? Is it because the Ethiopian people asked the Dergue to bring suffering and famine that all this suffering and destitution has been imposed on the people? Does it mean that the Ethiopian people are to blame for all these sufferings, and not the Dergue?

Unless the Dergue is insane, it is very difficult for them to expect that the Ethiopian people will accept all these lies. The Dergue used to consider that the beginning and end of peace was to call on the bandits in the bush to surrender peacefully. But now it is being pressured by the Ethiopian people, who are longing for peace. It now has one foot in the grave.

The Dergue was in such a situation when the TPLF put forward its peace proposals. The TPLF peace proposals are very well known throughout Ethiopia and have been widely accepted.

The people should be allowed to speak and write freely and to organize themselves as they want. Let all political organizations, including the WPE, be allowed to function legally. Release political prisoners. Let exiles return home. Foreign meddlers should leave the country. The Eritrean issue should be peacefully and democratically solved. A transitional government comprising all political parties, including the WPE, should be established. After a democratic discussion, the Ethiopian people should draft a constitution and form a freely elected government. All Ethiopia's problems should be solved democratically by Ethiopians themselves.

These were the TPLF's peace proposals. Why is it, then, that the TPLF is said to be seeking supremacy in Ethiopia, when it made it clear that all organizations, the WPE included, should compete freely and democratically and the winning majority's program should be implemented?

Why is it, then, that the TPLF, with these stated objectives should be accused of seeking the supremacy of one nationality, of wanting to dismember Ethiopia? How is it that when you say there should be democratic choice and decision for the people, you can be branded as destructive and being bent on bringing about supremacy of one nationality over the others? This can only be imagined by insane people.

The TPLF proposals promote democracy and enable the people freely to decide issues they are interested in. When the people freely decide on such issues, it will definitely lead to peaceful and brotherly coexistence. The firm belief and struggle of the TPLF are based on this principle, and it cannot waver at any time or in any circumstances.

The Dergue did not accept our peace proposals. From the outset, the Dergue said it came to power with the

mandate of the people. What we did over the past 15 years was with the people's consent and permission, it says. It goes on: There is no lack of democracy in Ethiopia. Therefore, we will not accept anything like a transitional government that includes all organizations, or free and democratic elections.

They are saying that all so-called bandits should meekly accept their government. They are saying that those who do not accept their government are anti-peace and destroyers of the country. They are saying: To hell with democracy and peace, as long as they are safe in power. They are saying: To hell with the unity of the Ethiopian people. Nevertheless, the TPLF has never given up hope, despite this anti-peace and anti-democracy response by the Dergue.

Many people say it is easier to pass a camel through the eye of a needle than to expect the Dergue to accept peace and democracy. Nevertheless, even if the chances are very slim, as long as there is hope for peace, we in the TPLF are going to take advantage of it. We stand firmly for peace. The TPLF has tried to make the Dergue understand that it has no alternative to peace.

The TPLF has also done everything possible to destroy the Dergue because it does not accept or understand peace. At the same time, it has done its best to hold peace talks with the Dergue. When the Dergue said it would hold talks with the Eritrean organizations only, and not with the TPLF, we made unstinting efforts, sending a number of open letters to the Dergue. After the Dergue said it was willing to hold talks with the TPLF, we made practical moves to start the talks.

Soon after, the Dergue began its so-called Operation Sweep. The TPLF, together with the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, who are fighting alongside the TPLF, formed the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], to counter the aggression. It took steps to explain the objectives of the EPRDF to the Ethiopian people. The Dergue's response—Operation Sweep for Peace—did not kill off the TPLF's hope to bring about peace. The TPLF knows that peace will only be achieved when meetings are held and agreement is reached. The TPLF has been carrying out the peace process, together with its allies, while at the same time countering the aggression, together with its allies. [passage omitted]

Lastly, we would like to give the following advice to those Ethiopians who, for different reasons, are with the Dergue. So that a few individuals, who cannot see further than their noses, may stay in power, Ethiopia is forced to live in untold agony. These few individuals have managed to commit all these atrocities because you have served them as instruments. It is evident that the days of these individuals are numbered. At a time when the Ethiopian people are preparing to stand more resolutely against the Dergue than ever before, you should not participate in the crimes of the Mengistus and Legese Asfaws.

The time has come for the Ethiopian people to give their popular judgement. Now is the time for you to repent for your past crimes and to reconcile with your people. Now is the time when you have got to raise your arms to stop the crimes of those who have been led astray by thirst for power.

Rebels Raid South Welo

EA2210201889 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 22 Oct 89

[Text] Reports from South Welo say the self-styled TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front] has carried out destruction of social services, pillaged and plundered public property, which have angered the people of South Welo Administrative Region. According to the regional peasants' association, the anti-people group had destroyed the networks which produce basic necessities for the peasants, and had disseminated cattle belonging to the peasantry. The peasants' association officials said: Not only have educational and health services been disrupted, but the peasants have also been unable to undertake activities due to the aggressive actions taken by the anti-people group on peaceful citizens.

Government 'Massacres' Noted

EA2310214089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Ethiopia in Amharic 0300 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Station commentary: "Every Passing Day Under the Fascists Brings Misery and Terrible Holocaust for Every Oppressed Ethiopian"]

[Excerpts] As we know, ever since the fascist Workers Party of Ethiopia [WPE] came to power, the lot of every oppressed Ethiopian has been death, agony and, in general, a horribly disturbed life. The peoples have intensified their struggle to uproot this fascist regime to an extent never seen before. They are struggling under the umbrella of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], which is a revolutionary democratic force, and are scoring victories and forging ahead. At the same time, the Dergue regime has intensified its holocaust and massacres of the people.

The Dergue troops carried out an atrocious massacre recently against civilians and soldiers who were under arrest in the town of Weldiya, at a time when they were being dealt thunderous blows by the EPRDF popular army and forced to retreat in disarray, even from towns. This shows that their objective is: Destroy or be destroyed.

The EPRDF's popular and historic struggle is burning like a wild fire, engulfing the blood-stained WPE regime and bringing peace and democracy in its place. However, the fascists are trying to prolong their stay in power, claiming that aggressors are attacking the Ethiopian people and trying to dismember the country. Thus they are creating civil strife.

The struggle of the Tigray People's Liberation Front the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement and the EPRDF popular force, which are destroying the fascists, is not civil strife directed against the Ethiopian nationalities and ethnic groups, but is a popular storm which is shaking the fascists and Soviet social imperialists, as has been tangibly demonstrated. It is a popular struggle aimed at breaking the war-mongering system set up by the fascists and bringing about peace through a genuine popular objective. The EPDRF, which we formed together with our ally, the EPDM [Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement] are not rebels bent on dismembering the country, as the fascists claim in their open lies. They are giving a false picture of this popular struggle, letting the people kill one another and forcing them to give up their unity.

When the fascists evacuated Weldiya recently, they burnt innocent compatriots and destroyed everything, using lorryloads of explosives. This is the clearest indication yet that their objective is to perish together with the country. The fascists will not stop at anything in carrying out horrible massacres. Their attempt to undermine and shatter the unity of the Ethiopian people shows that every passing day under the WPE brings misery and terrible holocaust on the peoples.

In order to ward off the fascist danger looming over them, the broad masses of Ethiopia should avoid forces like the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, who are running around trying to dampen the fire of the struggle against the WPE. Instead, together with the EPRDF, they should coordinate and intensify their struggle in order to bury the fascists.

Rebels Outline Peace Plan

EA2410085589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Ethiopia in Amharic 0300 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Station commentary: "Democratic Forces Should Support the Settlement of the Eritrean Question Through Democratic and Peaceful Means"]

[Text] The democratic forces demand that the issues raised by the oppressed peoples should be resolved without any pressure or influence, through democratic means. If the oppressed people make some wrong demand some time, through lack of awareness, the real democratic forces will endeavor to teach them the correct ideas they should follow, and they will not then use their guns. The struggle of the oppressed people for their democratic rights should be supported at all times and in all places. Although the real democracy of the oppressed has great appeal, and as such should not be violated by anybody, this kind of popular effort is alien to anti-people forces.

The question of the oppressed Eritrean people, as a democratic issue, should be reinstated without pressure or influence according to the wishes of the oppressed people themselves. To bomb and shell the Eritrean people, who made this democratic demand, is inhuman

and reactionary, and has nothing in common with popular actions. The war in Eritrea has caused deep distress to every oppressed Ethiopian.

We now find ourselves in a situation where every sector of Ethiopian society is deeply affected by the war. The Eritrean war, and the other wars in northern Ethiopia, has exacerbated the peoples' problem, and makes the peace issue more pressing in Ethiopia.

The main reason for the lack of peace in the country is that the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples are being denied democratic rights. Since the Dergue came to power it has been denying these basic democratic rights, and because of that, peace has not prevailed.

There are several issues connected with democratic rights: respect for human rights, the correct resolution of the nationalities question, the right to life of Ethiopian nationals, the peasants' ownership of their produce, the issue of political prisoners, the proletariat's right to own and control its produce, and other similar issues. If all these issues are not correctly resolved, peace can never be achieved.

Realizing that peace is a most pressing issue for the Ethiopian people, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement [EPDM] is struggling for these ideals by putting forward clear-cut peace proposals.

The EPDM has stated the following conditions for peace to prevail: The peoples' basic democratic rights should be affirmed, political organizations should be given the chance to officially present their ideas to the people, political prisoners should be released, political refugees should freely return to their country, the Dergue's espionage and kidnapping networks should be dismantled, and the imperialists' military bases should be closed down. The Eritrean problem should be democratically and peacefully resolved, a provisional government comprising all political forces should be established, the people should be allowed to decide their own destiny by democratic means, and allowed to draft and adopt their own constitution, and establish a government of their choice to determine their future. These democratic issues are strongly desired by the Ethiopian people, and will undoubtedly guarantee peace for them.

However, defying the peoples' struggle for peace by relying on mercenaries and arms is not as easy as shouting peace slogans. Hence, it should be recalled that through the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front peace-by-struggle operation, the EPDM and the Tigray People's Liberation Front [TPLF] defended themselves against the war declared on them by the barbaric Dergue in its "Operation Sweep".

The Dergue started its invasion as soon as it made the peace call. In those operations it has lost a huge number of soldiers and arms. That shows that without a democratic response to the peace proposals initiated by the EPDM, the Dergue's war will bring its own downfall.

Similarly, if the question of the Eritrean people is not peacefully and democratically resolved, the simple conclusion is that peace will never prevail in Ethiopia. Since the Eritrean people are deprived of these basic democratic rights, the war cannot end until these democratic rights are affirmed. Like the war declared against the EPDM and TPLF, any fascist war declared against the Eritrean people can only be an obstacle to peace, and does not help to achieve it.

The intensification of the Dergue's war against the Eritrean people will only bring the victory of the Eritrean people closer, and exacerbate the conflict within the Dergue system. The democratic and peaceful resolution of this problem will save the lives of thousands of Ethiopians, and prevent the destruction of the country's economy. For that reason, democratic forces should support a democratic and peaceful settlement of the Eritrean problem.

The oppressed Ethiopian people should also support the democratic rights of the Eritrean people. It is only by doing so that the Ethiopian people can shorten the life of the Dergue and gain peace through democratic means. Therefore, the Ethiopian people have to cooperate and join democratic forces like the EPDM to expedite peace through struggle.

The Dergue has blamed the opposition forces in Ethiopia and Eritrea for the current lack of peace in the country. It equates the peoples' struggle for peace with imperialist machinations, the demand of nationalities for their rights with narrow nationalism, and the Eritrean people's struggle with the Arab petrodollar. It thereby strives to sow hatred, suspicion and division among the oppressed, so as to prolong its fascist rule. Whereas the peaceful resolution of the Eritrean problem makes the warmongering fascists anxious, the EPDM has proved its real popular identity by its correct position on peace and democratic rights.

Rally Pledges Response Against TPLF

*EA2410114489 Addis Ababa Domestic Service
in Amharic 0930 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] The residents of Addis Ababa administrative area expressed their popular anger in Revolution Square today with a great spirit of unity and nationalism to protest the great efforts being made and the campaign being waged by the so-called Tigray People's Liberation Front [TPLF] an antiunity group which has the aim of destabilizing the unity of our country and in particular of dismembering Eritrea.

During the rally, in which the people turned out to give a practical response to the call which has been made by President Mengistu and to reaffirm their readiness, they waved the Ethiopian flag, which is their national emblem—the expression and guarantor of their unity and independence—and they reiterated their determination to make any sacrifice to preserve the long-standing history of independence of the country.

They expressed their readiness with a great spirit of nationalism by waving their shields, spears, and swords and voicing slogans, saying that the choice and decision of the Ethiopian people is to be deployed at the warfront and to act without delay against the bandits who have taken up a position to benefit themselves at the expense of the peace and blood of the people.

The residents of Addis Ababa administrative area, who repeatedly demonstrated that unity is strength, pledged at today's rally to (?support) the people's militia and peasants of Gonder, Welo, and Gojam administrative areas who are struggling alongside our revolutionary army [passage indistinct].

[Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries at 1530 GMT on 23 October carries a report on the rally which adds: Present at this massive rally, at which the people of Addis Ababa and its environs gave an eloquent response to the national call made on 18 October and expressed their readiness to flush out narrow-minded terrorists and anti-people groups, was Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the WPE (Workers Party of Ethiopia) and Commander in Chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.“]

Foreign Minister on North Situation

*AB2310201289 London BBC World Service in English
1615 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] If you go by the claims of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF], the Ethiopian Army garrison in Dese, 200 km from the capital, has been taking a pounding recently. The front is a joint force of Tigrayan TPLF [Tigray People's Liberation Front] rebels and the EPDM [Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement]. Over the last 2 months, the Front has advanced steadily southwards, out of the TPLF heartland in Tigray and into Wolo Province. There were reports last week that Dese was about to fall, and it all comes at a time when the TPLF claims to have had secret contacts with the Ethiopian Government. On the line to Addis Ababa, Julian Marshall asked Ethiopia's foreign minister, Berhanu Bayeh, what the situation is now in Dese:

[Begin recording] [Berhanu] The situation at Dese is now normal, there is no fighting, the assault has been repulsed, and everything is normal. It is well-defended, and actually there is no problem now.

[Marshall] Are you saying then that at one time there was a problem, that Dese was under some considerable military threat?

[Berhanu] Well, not so much, but they attempted to infiltrate through some directions to come close, but that was repulsed.

[Marshall] Have you actually been able to stop the advance south of this joint rebel force, because they were

claiming to have captured the town of (?Wide Elu), which is about 90 km south of Dese?

[Berhanu] Let me tell you that this is not a joint rebel group. [Words indistinct] is a creation or another wing of the successionist organization in Eritrea, and this one, they give it every name, but this is not a separate organization but the Amharic wing—propaganda wing of the TPLF. There is no other organization. The purpose of this new offensive is to disrupt the peace talks and to cause destruction. It is very saddening. Indeed, they told the people under their control to go on looting the people in (?Gonder). So this is just a marauding horde.

[Marshall] So, Minister, even if you describe them as a marauding horde, they do, nonetheless, seem to have been able to make significant military advances south from Tigray to the north.

[Berhanu] They did try, they did advance to a certain degree, but they have been checked now.

[Marshall] The TPLF claimed, Minister, that talks took place in London last month between Ethiopian Government representatives and TPLF representatives. Is that the case?

[Berhanu] What I can tell you is that preliminary arrangements were... [changes thought] There were exchanges of letters [words indistinct], but anything concerning that will be disclosed when it is necessary.

[Marshall] So you have put out tentative feelers toward the TPLF with a view to full-scale discussions. Have you?

[Berhanu] Though it has been disclosed earlier, even the president has not told me this [words indistinct] preliminary contacts were being made and in fact what is surprising and what is saddening is that they launched this offensive when there were such possibilities of negotiations or talks. [end recording]

Islamic Leader To Respond to Call

EA2410110589 Addis Ababa Domestic Service
in Amharic 1700 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Text] Comrade President Mengistu Haile Mariam today received and held talks with Haji 'Umar Husayn 'Abd al-Wahid, who has recently been elected chairman of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council. Asefa Seyoum has filed the details by telephone.

[Begin Asefa recording] In a ceremony held at the State Council, Haji 'Umar Husayn pointed out the oppression that the prerevolutionary regime used to carry out against the Islamic religion and he noted that the practical implementation of the equality of religions in new Ethiopia had shown that the followers of the Islamic religion had received the appropriate spiritual rights in their country. Haji 'Umar Husayn 'Abd al-Wahid said, since the antiunity movement aimed at the country was a threat to

all her citizens, it had angered him greatly and he reaffirmed his readiness to respond to the national call.

For his part Comrade President Mengistu said that since religion could not be seen in isolation from a country's identity, development, and national pride, there could be no difference or conflict among the citizens of the new Ethiopia. He added that this situation guaranteed that the rights of citizens would be assured in the future. Comrade President Mengistu Haile Mariam noted the significance of the role of the followers and leaders of various religions in bringing every citizen together in defense of the motherland. Comrade President Mengistu Haile Mariam congratulated Haji 'Umar Husayn 'Abd al-Wahid and assured him of every assistance from the party and government in carrying out his responsibilities. [end recording]

Mengistu Calls for 'Mobilization'

EA2310220589 Addis Ababa Domestic Service
in Amharic 1748 GMT 23 Oct 89

[Speech by President Mengistu Haile Mariam at a mass rally held in Addis Ababa's Revolutionary Square on 23 October; recorded]

[Text] Children of one motherland which has lived in pride and respect: All of you who have stood for the building of one strong nation; citizens who have stood for peace, democracy and social justice—

We inherited this continuous problem threatening the unity of our nation and disrupting peace, this problem which has halted our efforts to enhance mutual prosperity. It is a problem which has several historical causes. It has built up over centuries. We ought not to have been bothered so much by tribalists and harbingers of doom who are among not more than 4,000,000 compatriots living in an area not exceeding 150,000 square km, compared to the more than 47,000,000 people settled in an area of more than 1,200,000 square km.

As our fathers put it, they are trying to snatch our bread while we are not looking. There is no reason for people who have been repulsing foreign aggressors, colonialists, and expansionists to be disturbed this much by tribalists and mercenaries from one area. Peace is a priority, of importance to citizenship rights, free movement, work, and development. Lack of peace means lack of citizenship and lawlessness in the nation.

In general, it means the denial of rights and freedom of citizenship. It means exposure to all sorts of degradation at every (?forum). The action by some tribalists in a limited area against the Ethiopian people is a very insolent undertaking and a despicable challenge which will not only call our existence into question, but test our identity and Ethiopian patriotism. This situation is very difficult for the messenger and the people who hear the message.

How is it that this is happening? Why? In addition to our communal zeal and condemnation, every genuine Ethiopian, male and female, young and old, should examine his conscience at this time.

If we do not want to go backwards and plunge ourselves into destruction, instead of moving forward to better things, if we want to resolve our problems peacefully, like the rest of the civilized world, to achieve a better standard of living, we must effect a massive mobilization to save our country from destruction and to defend ourselves against the conspiracy and invasion hoisted on us by tribalists.

Tribalists who originated from one area have been threatening, without rest or sleep, the great Ethiopia, a source of confidence to all her children, threatening the unity of the many nationalities of the country. We cannot sit and watch while they hasten to do whatever they like in undermining and underestimating us.

To abort our development and growth plans, to hinder us from achieving the desired change in our country and our wish to do away with backwardness, to bring shame on our respected country in the eyes of the international community, they have launched, besides war, a big propaganda offensive against our history. A big campaign of hatred and destruction has been launched against us.

We cannot ignore the treachery of tribalists from one region who wrongly interpret our peace initiative and intend to divide the country, who mock the patience of the Ethiopian masses. Our children should not be plunged into deep shame and destruction because of our negligence. It is in line with our usual character and identity to rise up responsibly to defend the existence of the irreplaceable motherland. As long as our unity is strengthened with an unrelenting patriotic stance, our country has the ability to fulfill our individual and joint needs.

Let us rise up to repulse the spiritual and physical offensive against us by political traders who threaten us from every direction. This is the basis for the realization of our development and peace desires.

Compatriots, weakness or the appearance of weakness does not earn respect, dignity, or peace. Let us match our words with deeds by rising up without hesitation and punishing the treacherous tribalists, who have forgotten the heroism of the Ethiopian people.

One great revolutionary motherland or death, now and for ever! We shall yet win!

Rebels Capture 4 Welo Towns

EA2410125589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Tigray Revolution in Amharic to Ethiopia 0400 GMT 24 Oct 89

[Excerpts] The heroic people's army of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front [EPRDF] has scored another colorful victory by crushing the Workers Party of Ethiopia's [WPE] antipeace soldiers stationed at

the towns of Urgesa, Wichale, (Esaban) and Hayk in Welo administrative area and capturing the towns. [martial music]

The heroic EPRDF people's army, whose aim is to assure peace and democracy throughout the country and to (?create) a United People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia with the full support of the people, has continued its series of wonderful victories by extending its offensive against the antipeople, antipeace, racist, and fascist Dergue and WPE. Backed by the people, the EPRDF people's forces are continuing their customary victories, giving [word indistinct] to the fascist WPE forces and routing them wherever they go. The Dergue's soldiers are convulsed with fear and waiting for their death to come.

In a day-long battle on 18 October 1989, the EPRDF people's army who have [word indistinct] the victory of the broad masses, completely annihilated the huge [word indistinct] WPE forces stationed at the towns of Urgesa, Wichale, (Esaban) and Hayk in Welo administrative area. Now that it is in control of the towns, it is, (?poised) at the entrance to the town of Dese.

Having exposed their soldiers to destruction, the leaders of the fleeing WPE forces [words indistinct] thought that destroying bridges would halt the advance of our heroic forces. They put their plan into action by destroying the big bridge between Urgesa and Wichale, using [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The people in the area, who have suffered under the WPE and are bitter about it, helped the EPRDF by giving information. As a result the EPRDF forces were able to capture the commander of the 17th Division, Colonel (Maneyeh), and another four officers, after discovering the places where they were hiding. [passage omitted]

With the people's support [words indistinct] the heroic EPRDF forces killed and wounded 1,619 soldiers and captured 1,945 others in their annihilation of the invading WPE forces on that day. The captured men include Col (Maneyeh), commander of the 17 Division, and 17 other officers. [passage omitted]

In action carried out between 16 and 18 October 1989, the heroic EPRDF force killed and wounded a total of 3,719 soldiers and [words indistinct] 5,745 soldiers who fled from Weldiya and the surrounding area and subsequently regrouped at that town [not specified]. [passage indistinct]

A Stalin organ, 6,310 medium and light weapons, 1 [words indistinct], 49 military and civilian vehicles of various kinds, 31 trucks loaded with rations and military equipment, other essential equipment [word indistinct], as well as hundreds of thousands of rounds of ammunition have fallen into the hands of the heroic EPRDF forces. [passage omitted]

Aide Comments on Talks With Eritrean Groups*PM2310142589 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 20 Oct 89 p 3*

[Unattributed report: "Ethiopian President's Aide Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Are Making Diplomatic Moves To Improve Relations With Arabs"]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Gulf Bureau—Kassa Kebede, an aide to the Ethiopian president, has announced that his country is seeking to improve Ethiopian relations with the Arab world. Kebede, who is on a visit to Abu Dhabi, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that during his talks in Abu Dhabi he reached an agreement to establish diplomatic relations between Ethiopia and the United Arab Emirates [UAE], and a UAE delegation will visit Ethiopia shortly to study the arrangements for this.

On the Ethiopian-Eritrean peace talks Kebede said that his country is making diplomatic moves in the Arab region with a view to explaining what he termed the Ethiopian peace initiative.

He said that Ethiopia supports the role which Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih is playing to unify the position of the Eritrean revolution groups rallied under the Eritrean Liberation Front [ELF] banner.

On what the negotiations with the Eritrean revolution have so far achieved, the Ethiopian president's aide said: We are holding negotiations with three forces representing the ELF. The negotiations with them started in Khartoum, but we achieved no specific results, though we made great strides with regard to procedures, as agreement was reached on the venue for the talks, namely, Sanaa and Khartoum alternately.

He added that the problem which faced his government in the negotiation with the front was the disputes among the groups of the front itself, which prompted President Mengistu Haile Mariam to seek Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's mediation between the front's elements with a view to unifying their position in the negotiations.

As for the negotiations with the [Eritrean] People's [Liberation] Front [EPLF] held in the U.S. state of Georgia under former President Jimmy Carter's sponsorship, Kebede said that the negotiations were characterized by that group's unified negotiating position, which led to agreement on 10 out of 13 procedural points.

He also said that among the points agreed was the venue for the negotiations, as 6 states were chosen for the negotiations. They are: the Yemen Arab Republic, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Kenya, and Zimbabwe. Agreement was reached on the language to be used during the negotiations, as the two delegations have been given the freedom to use any language, provided that it is translated into English, which will be the approved language in the end.

As for the points of disagreements with the EPLF, they concerned the observers who will attend the negotiations. The Ethiopian delegation suggested that the observer should be an African figure, whereas the Eritrean delegation suggested that the observer should be President Carter. But a compromise formula has been reached, namely, that the round of negotiations should be held under two chairmen: one African and the other from outside the continent.

He added that there are some procedural differences concerning the negotiations' secretariat, adding that the next round will be held 18 November, during which the other procedural differences will be resolved and an agenda for the major issues will be drawn up.

As for the third aspect being negotiated, it is the neutral Eritrean groups' demand for broad autonomy within the framework of unified Ethiopia, as mentioned in the Ethiopian peace initiative espoused by the National Assembly in Addis Ababa.

He added that these groups urge the abolition of religious and racial privileges and demand equality and justice. And the Ethiopian Government has upheld these demands and completed negotiations with these groups, which he said have recently sent envoys to the Arab states to explain what has been agreed with the Ethiopian Government.

On his view of the negotiations, the Ethiopian president's aide said that his country sets no preconditions, but will not accept any solutions leading to the fragmentation of the country's unity or threatening its independence.

In his statement the Ethiopian president's aide called for Arab-Ethiopian cooperation in the economic, investment, food, and industrial fields.

Uganda**6-Member North Korean Delegation Visits***EA2110134589 Kampala Domestic Service in English
0400 GMT 20 Oct 89*

[Excerpt] A six-man delegation from North Korea, led by a deputy minister, Mr Pak Kun-un, has paid a 1-day visit to Luwero District to see the people's revolutionary base and to assess public opinion and extent of destruction suffered during the liberation war. They also assessed the progress so far made to rehabilitate the district after the war.

Addressing the members of the district development committee, Mr Pak praised the revolutionary spirit of the people of Luwero and advised them to continue supporting and implementing the policies of the NRA [National Resistance Movement/Army] which they helped to come to power in order to restore peace. Mr Pak noted that the NRM/NRA [National Resistance Movement/Army] struggle, like the one in his country in the thirties and forties, was successful because of the people's support. [passage omitted]

De Klerk Warns Against 'International Interference'

*MB2310172589 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1721 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Bloemfontein Oct 23 SAPA—There was no question of an internationally-sponsored transition or interim government in South Africa, the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said on Monday night.

He was warning against international interference during his opening address to the OFS [Orange Free State] National Party Congress in the Bloemfontein City Hall.

Referring to development at the Commonwealth summit, he reiterated government's firm stand against international interference in South Africa's internal affairs.

"The political future is not a matter to be decided upon by other governments in international forums," Mr de Klerk said.

"There is no question of an internationally-sponsored transition to other forms of government in South Africa.

"Likewise, there can be no talk of an internationally-sponsored interim government."

The new South Africa would be considered and discussed in South Africa by its own people, and it would be born from and out of existing constitutional institutions, according to constitutional processes.

Excluding the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he said he strongly rejected the justification by the summit of sanctions against South Africa.

Among whites, sanctions created "an angry response which psychologically benefits radicals while it contributes to unemployment, poverty and misery among the black population".

Rejects 'Victories Before Talks'

*MB2310171489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1707 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Bloemfontein Oct 23 SAPA—If prospective negotiators for a new constitution insisted on victories before talks started, there was little chance of success, state President F.W. de Klerk said on Monday night.

He officially opened the Orange Free State National Party [NP] Congress with a public meeting in the city hall in Bloemfontein, the provincial capital.

"What is necessary is a change of heart, a fresh start in as much as that is humanly possible," he said.

The government was determined to create an atmosphere conducive to growing cooperation.

"The idea that the time has arrived that things must happen in South Africa, that everything which does not fit, does not work, must be made new."

There were formidable forces, radicals to the left and the right, who did not want the government to succeed.

"To the right we're dealing with an emotional campaign which exploits fear and prejudice.

"On the left radical side there is a world wide anti-South African industry which cannot afford that we succeed with peaceful and reasonable solutions, which is not interested in power sharing but only in taking over power.

The government also wanted to offer opportunities for participation to those organisations which had, through history and the road taken by their leaders, been excluded from the peaceful process.

But a new South Africa could only be built on the basis of give and take.

"If prospective participants in the negotiation process insist on victories before entering negotiations, success will evade us," he said.

Legislation which provided for the registration of political parties did so without reference to race or group and the right of all leaders to put their viewpoints and seek supporters was recognised.

"The banning or restriction of organisations, or specific activities of organisations, is therefore not aimed at eliminating opposition or criticism."

These steps had been taken to eliminate anarchy and revolution.

All that prevented organisations from participating freely in the political process was a commitment to peaceful solutions.

"No reasonable person or party demands of such organisations to forego their basic principles before they can participate," Mr de Klerk said.

He said it was nonsense to claim the government's stated intention to lift or move away from the state of emergency had come about as a result of pressure.

The government had said what it had because it believed it to be right—and because it was convinced the time was right. Ultimately, it sought a constitution acceptable to the majority of reasonable South Africans.

"When I say that it does not mean what we are willy nilly prepared giving in to every demand made of us."

One of these demands was for the immediate lifting of the state of emergency, but if the organisations responsible for political violence gave an indication such violence would not occur, it would add to a relaxed atmosphere in which the state of emergency could be lifted.

"Instead of merely demanding that the state of emergency should be lifted, they can help to make it possible. They can help to make it happen."

Mr de Klerk said the same applied for the demand to unban organisations such as the ANC [African National Congress].

"Here too the indicators will have to be positive and indicative of support for peaceful and democratic processes.

"We would like to see the leaders of all political groupings that matter put their views and plans on the table, that they become involved in dialogue and negotiation."

He said the next five year term of Parliament did not hold out expectations for a period of calm consolidation.

"On the contrary, I foresee five years of ordered but rather dramatic revolution (omwenteling)."

He urged supporters to study the NP's five year plan and to contemplate the consequences of it. "Make sure you understand why I and other leaders tell you there is no other alternative which can succeed."

Affirms Support for Namibian Vote

*MB2310173289 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1730 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Bloemfontein Oct 23 SAPA—South Africa still had the responsibility, and would provide the resources, to ensure the imminent elections in Namibia were free and fair, the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said on Monday night.

Opening the OFS [Orange Free State] National Party Congress with a public meeting in the Bloemfontein City Hall, he said it was of importance to South Africa that the territory's people decided on their constitutional future without outside interference.

"The Republic of South Africa still bears the responsibility for the maintenance of law and order, to ensure there will be no external threat, and to ensure internal stability.

"Without that the election and the period immediately following it can easily turn to chaos, and that dare not happen.

"The administrator general will, should unforeseen circumstances develop, have access to the necessary manpower and means to maintain stability and order during this period," Mr de Klerk said.

He said South Africa had carefully met all its commitments in respect of the agreements reached, "and we expect precisely the same of all other parties".

Calls on Nations To Observe Changes

*MB2310191989 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1907 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Bloemfontein Oct 23 SAPA—The time had come for international recognition to be given to the dramatic

changes in attitude which had taken place in South Africa, the state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, said on Monday night.

While addressing the issue of international sanctions during his opening address to the OFS [Orange Free State] National Party Congress here, he said international encouragement was needed now.

"Pressure is needed on radicals to push violence aside and to enter into negotiations."

He welcomed the firm stand taken by the British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, at the Commonwealth summit against further sanctions.

"Further sanctions will harm because it will give rise to further tension and conflict. Apart from the economic harm it will cause numerous black families," Mr de Klerk said.

"In the new spirit that became prevalent in our country it (the sanctions issue) has become totally counter-productive," he said.

He believed the time had come for all South Africans to tell the world how they rejected sanctions, "to form a united front against this punitive and prescriptive intervention in our internal affairs".

Pik Botha Reacts to U.S. 'Coherent Policy' Plan

*MB2310064489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0628 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Pretoria Oct 23 SAPA—The contents of a draft policy document aimed at unifying the positions of the United States Administration and the U.S. Congress towards South Africa did not reflect the thinking of the more influential politicians in Congress with whom South Africa had been engaging in discussions since the beginning of the year.

The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, was responding to reports that a congressional task force had released the draft of a plan intended to form the basis of "a coherent policy in regard to South Africa".

The draft is aimed at unifying the U.S. Administration and congress positions which have been divided by the sanctions issue since 1985.

Mr Botha said although he was reluctant to react to a draft document which had no official status at this stage, he wished to make it clear that the South African Government would not respond to timetables or agendas demanded by foreign bodies or parties which had no accountability for the consequences of their actions.

He said the existence of a "bi-partisan task force" was controversial even in the House of Representatives which was not known for its objectivity towards South Africa.

Released ANC Leaders Meet, Issue Statement

*MB2310180689 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1745 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 23 SAPA—Eight African National Congress [ANC] leaders, including the seven recently released from prison, held a private meeting with leaders from the Mass Democratic Movement in a community centre in Soweto on Monday.

A statement from the organisers of the meeting, the National Reception Committee, said the leadership of the organisations had decided to "continue consultations with a broad range of forces including, and in particular, the African National Congress".

Mr Govan Mbeki, 79, who has been barred from travelling and attending political gatherings since his release in November 1987, was the eighth ANC member attending the meeting which was also a reunion for the organisation's leaders.

The government on Sunday [22 October] lifted his restrictions for one week and Mr Mbeki flew from Port Elizabeth to Johannesburg on Monday.

The seven ANC leaders released from prison on October 15, some after nearly a quarter century in prison, were Walter Sisulu, 77; Oscar Mpetha, 80; Andrew Mlangeni, 63; Elias Motsaoleli, 65; Raymond Mhlaba, 68; Ahmed Kathrada, 60; and Wilton Mkwayi, 65.

The brief statement on Monday night said an in-depth exploration was made of the "way forward" during the meeting.

Major policy issues will be addressed on Sunday Oct 29 at a "welcome rally" for the eight leaders to be held at a soccer stadium in Soweto.

"In so far as the outcome of the Commonwealth conference is concerned, the report is still being studied," the statement said.

"It can nevertheless be mentioned that Mrs (Margaret) Thatcher's position, as gleaned from preliminary reports, does not coincide with ours."

Further on Meeting

*MB2310183589 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1834 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[By Joan Fubbs]

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 23 SAPA—Anti-apartheid activists on Monday slammed international bankers and said British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher was out of step with their view on how to ensure reform in South Africa.

"We are disappointed and outraged at the actions of the international bankers who have undercut years of our work in the struggle to eliminate apartheid." Publicity

Secretary of the MDM [Mass Democratic Movement] Murphy Morobe said on Monday night.

He was speaking at a press conference at a community centre in Soweto after Mr Walter Sisulu and other freed ANC [African National Congress] leaders had been locked in discussions for nearly three hours.

"The meeting went well," said Mr Sisulu as he walked out of the centre.

Mr Ahmed Kathrada merely smiled and nodded.

"Sanctions, and other forms of pressure, were discussed at the meeting in which perspective were shared on the current conjecture," said Mr Morobe in response to a question.

Speaking from a prepared statement Mr Morobe said:

"One of the significant features of this meeting was the attendance of Comrade Govan Mbeki, who was reunited with the other members of our leadership, whom he left behind in jail in November 198."

The release ANC leaders and representatives of the leadership of the MDM explored a broad spectrum of policy issues, including State President F.W. de Klerk's statement at the Transvaal National Party Congress on Saturday [21 October]

"An in-depth exploration of the way forward was gone into," said the statement.

In response to a question from SAPA on whether the theme of Mr Sisulu's speech at the rally on October 29 was discussed and whether that would be the only speech, Mr Morobe said:

"We did not go into specific details of Mr Sisulu's keynote address to the nation or those which will be made by the other released leaders...this we will tackle later."

He said the meeting also explored the "disappointing" position taken by Mrs Thatcher at the Commonwealth conference.

"In so far as the outcome of the Commonwealth conference is concerned, the report is still being studied...nevertheless...Mrs Thatcher's position, as gleaned from preliminary reports, does not coincide with ours," said the statement issued after the meeting.

At the meeting it was decided the leaders would continue consultations with a broad range of forces including, and in particular, the ANC. It is not clear yet whether the freed Pan-Africanist Congress member, Mr Jafta Masemola, will also be invited to address the rally.

ANC 'Agent' Dobson Discusses Namibian Operation*MB2310210589 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 23 Oct 89*

[Text] A former employee of South Africa's Bureau for Information has surfaced in London after disappearing from her job.

Susan Dobson says she was an agent for the African National Congress [ANC] and fled amid reports that she was about to be arrested in Namibia. There, she claims, she worked with the Bureau of Information team whose task was to spread disinformation about SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and about UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group], the UN group overseeing Namibia's election process.

Well, the South African administrator general [AG] in Windhoek has denied those allegations, but Susan Dobson stands by her story. Julian Marshall asked her who were the other members of her team:

[Begin recording] [Dobson] Well, they were representatives from the National Intelligence Service; from the South African Defense Force, specifically military intelligence; and there were various information representatives, among which there were two journalists. I was one of them.

[Marshall] And what was your specific brief? What specific projects did you have?

[Dobson] We were told to boost the image of South Africa as a peacemaker; to publicize allegations of splits within the SWAPO leadership; to promote political parties other than SWAPO, specifically the DTA [Democratic Turnhalle Alliance]; and to try and influence Ahtisaari; and to (?smear) specific UNTAG personnel to discredit (?them).

[Marshall] But, on the face of it, to me this seems like the legitimate work of an information department projecting an image of their own country and, in a way, trying to discredit the opposition. So, to what extent, in your opinion, was it covert?

[Dobson] Well, our briefing was that it was a covert operation, that we were to keep extremely quiet about it. We were to be given accreditation of the Administrator General's Office, and we were instructed not to publicize our presence and to use the cover that we were from the AG's office.

[Marshall] And, so, what was your cover?

[Dobson] That I was a journalist that had been seconded to the Administrator General's Office to all sorts of press work.

[Marshall] But at what point did you feel the work that you had to do was, in fact, covert? Was, in fact, in some way not what an information department should be about?

[Dobson] Well, the entire contingent knew that before we left Pretoria. We had been briefed that it was a secret mission, and we should not publicize our presence at all.

[Marshall] Now, in response to your allegations, the Bureau of Information in Pretoria has acknowledged that you did, in fact, work for them but that you never had access to any sensitive information. Furthermore, the Administrator General's Office in Windhoek has denied that any such disinformation campaign existed. What is your response to those allegations?

[Dobson] Well, my response is that I must have obviously had access to sensitive information for me to have been chosen to participate in a covert operation, and, in response to the administrator general's denial, I can only say that it could be expected for him to say such things in the light of the embarrassment that these revelations must have caused him.

[Marshall] What made you decide to work for the ANC? To work for them as an agent?

[Dobson] I have been involved in ANC activities for several years. I have worked for the organization's underground, and my motivations were obviously political. I see the ANC as the only legitimate organization through which a democratic, nonracial South Africa can be achieved. [end recording]

Johannesburg Hospital Discharges PAC's Mothopeng*MB2410104489 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1040 GMT 24 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 24 SAPA—Pan-Africanist Congress leader Zeph Mothopeng has been discharged from a Johannesburg hospital where he underwent an operation for a lung ailment, hospital spokesman said on Tuesday.

Mr Mothopeng was "fine" when he was discharged on Monday morning after twelve days in the Lady Dudley Hospital.

The anti-apartheid leader underwent an operation during which he had a drainage of the lung.

Mr Mothopeng sought medical treatment overseas recently after being freed from prison by the Pretoria government.

Hospital Discharges Portuguese President's Son*MB2410091889 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0910 GMT 24 Oct 89*

[Text] Johannesburg Oct 24 SAPA—The son of the Portuguese president, Dr Joao Soares, has been discharged from the H.F. Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reports.

Dr Soares was seriously injured in a plane crash in southern Angola about a month ago.

He was moved from the intensive care unit last week after his condition was found to be satisfactory.

Dr Soares was visited by his family earlier this month.

Angola**Commentary Criticizes U.S. 'Fury' on Peace Plans***MB2310203189 Luanda ANGOP in French 1929 GMT
23 Oct 89*

[Commentary: "American Fury"]

[Text] [No dateline as received] Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, said in Dakar on Saturday [21 October] that there are two governments, the official regime based in Luanda and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola], adding that every effort must be made for the two to reach an understanding.

Cohen's words fit within the logical framework of escalated hostility against the Angolan people. The Bush administration has made this escalation all the clearer lately. The provocative nature of Cohen's words was only matched by the recent audience granted to the UNITA chief at the White House, in Washington.

These acts of hostility are part of the wider plan to sabotage the Gbadolite compromises, which the U.S. Government had (?launched), thus showing disdain for the African heads of state who backed those compromises, which were also subsequently supported by the international community as a whole. Keeping this in mind, those words were very telling, coming as they did just after a series of spectacular diplomatic moves that placed Savimbi on a podium, reciting in various intonations the elements for a peace plan whose author is not yet known. It may have been Savimbi himself or it may have been Bush.

Cohen's words show the fury of the United States in the face of the small impact of recent and intense secret ploys between the United States and France.

There's the overwhelming impression that, after the failure of those ploys over there, they are trying to transfer them to Africa.

The so-called Angolan internal conflict was correctly analyzed by the government of the People's Republic of Angola. It met with the agreement of the Angolan people, who want peace, and of the majority of the international community, in general, and the African community, in particular. The OAU has unequivocally expressed support for the Angolan Government's peace plan, which was the basis of the Gbadolite agreement.

With what kind of sincerity does the U.S. Government want to support the mediator if it defends theories such as a Western-type multiparty system, free elections, two governments, and all that its imagination daily adds to the plan, creating confusion where African wisdom has already delineated the fundamental routes to peace?

The Angolan people regard Cohen's statement in the Senegalese capital as proof that a superpower like the United States is not interested in peace in Angola, despite the Angolan Government's many shows of flexibility, responsibility, and openness, as well as considerable and advantageous U.S. investments in Angola.

The Angolan Government is aware that, as the sole recognized authority with sovereignty and international credibility, it is its responsibility to find a solution to the Angolan problem. The Angolan Government will continue to fight with serenity, determination, and coherence to have the Gbadolite compromises implemented. They were accepted by Savimbi himself in the presence of 18 African heads of state. Later, he rejected them under pressure from the Washington government.

We continue to trust in the mediator and in Africa's ability to confront this new challenge posed by the U.S. Administration successfully, in line with its accomplice behavior during the whole process of African decolonization, which, fortunately, is approaching its end with Namibia's forthcoming independence and the collapse of apartheid.

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